

100. *Sharpe's 'Monograph of the Paradiseidæ.'*

[Monograph of the *Paradiseidæ*, or Birds of Paradise, and *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, or Bower-Birds. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part IV. Folio. London: H. Sotheran & Co., 1895.]

The fourth part of this splendidly illustrated work is now before us.

The following species are figured in it :—

Drepanornis bruijii.	Phonygama keraudreni.
— cervinicauda.	Cnemophilus macgregori.
Uranornis rubra.	Ælurœdus arfakianus.
Diphylloides chrysoptera.	— melanotis.
Lophorhina superba.	— buccoides.

We remark that Dr. Sharpe states that he has proposed a new generic name (quite unnecessarily in our opinion) for *Drepanornis bruijii*. But he gives us no reference to where this new name (*Drepananax*) was published.

101. *Shufeldt on the Crane-tribe.*

[On the Osteology of certain Cranes, Rails, and their Allies, with Remarks upon their Affinities. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D. Journ. of Anat. & Phys. xxix. p. 21.]

The author having studied numerous skeletons of American Paludicolæ, offers remarks on the osteology of that group, which he considers to embrace two "superfamilies"—Gruidæ and Ralloidæ—the former containing the Gruidæ and Aramidæ, and the latter the Rallidæ. We believe this to be a very natural arrangement, but there is certainly little novelty about it.

XXXII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed "to the Editors" :—

9 Elm Street, Ann Arbor, Mich., U.S.A.  
March 1, 1895.

SIRS,—We note with a good deal of surprise that Mr. Ogilvie Grant (see above, p. 112) has re-discovered

"*Alcyone philippinensis* (Gould)," and wish to offer a few remarks on the points at issue.

The question is simply this : are there in reality two such species as *Ceyx cyanopectus* and *Ceyx philippinensis*, or are we simply dealing with opposite sexes of the same species? Dr. Steere brought back with him in 1888 abundant materials to settle this question conclusively, but on examining his pamphlet on the Birds and Mammals of the Steere Expedition, we do not find that he referred to it in any way.

Without doubting in the least Mr. Whitehead's ability to determine the sexes of birds correctly, we are still perfectly certain that Mr. Ogilvie Grant's conclusion is incorrect.

*Ceyx cyanopectus* is an extremely common bird in several of the localities visited by us in 1890-93, notably in Masbate and Mindoro. The form with the blue pectoral band and the form which lacks it are invariably found side by side and in equal abundance. If they belong to distinct species then we have repeatedly witnessed a remarkable occurrence, namely, *the pursuit of the female of one species by the male of another*.

Furthermore we have been the victims of a remarkable series of coincidences, as among the scores of specimens that have passed through our hands we have never yet found an exception to the rule that the birds with the blue pectoral band are *males*. Immature males, however, have the plumage of the females, lacking the pectoral band.

Mr. Ogilvie Grant's conclusions were drawn from five specimens. These were "a male and female of '*Ceyx cyanopectus*' and a male and two females of *C. philippinensis*." We do not hesitate to express the opinion that the male of "*C. philippinensis*" owed its lack of the blue pectoral band to the fact of its being immature, and that in the case of the "female" of *Ceyx cyanopectus* a mistake in sexing was made. Such a mistake might readily occur, as anyone who has ever sexed small Kingfishers in the tropics must know. They putrefy rapidly, and except in the breeding-season their ovaries and testes are often so minute as to require careful

examination with a lens in order to insure a correct determination.

A very large series of specimens of this Kingfisher was collected by the Steere expedition, and on our second trip to the Philippines we on one occasion shot thirteen specimens of the species in question in a single morning, so that we do not feel that there is much room for mistake.

It is worthy of note in this connection that the allied species, *Ceyx nigrirostris*, which inhabits Panay, Negros, and Cebu, shows the same differences between the sexes.

We are pleased to note that Mr. Ogilvie Grant agrees with our own previously expressed opinion ('Preliminary Notes on the Birds and Mammals of the Menage Expedition,' p. 48, Dec. 8, 1894) that *Ceyx steerii*, Sharpe, and the species under discussion are identical.

We are also glad to note that Mr. Hargitt and Mr. Ogilvie Grant both agree with us as to the distinctness of *Iyngipicus maculatus* and *I. validirostris*, as well as to the propriety of applying the latter title to the Luzon bird. The points of difference between the two species were recognized by Dr. Steere, who named the species correctly, and were given by us in detail on page 51 of the paper above referred to. After reading Mr. Grant's description of *Æthopyga flavipectus* and examining the fine plate in 'The Ibis' for January, we are forced to the conclusion that it is identical with our *Æthopyga minuta* from Mindoro, the type specimen of which was unfortunately stolen. Mr. Grant's description antedates ours by some weeks, and his title will of course take precedence.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Whitehead, while investigating the mountain fauna of the Philippines, will not neglect Mt. Halcon in Mindoro. Should he visit the latter island we can promise him that if he will ascend the river which connects Naujan Lake with the sea he will get specimens enough to satisfy him as to the identity of *Ceyx cyanopectus* and *C. philippinensis* in one day.

We hope he may also obtain more specimens of the beautiful little *Æthopyga* of the island than we were able to

secure, and have little doubt that it will prove to be the species discovered by him in Luzon. The general similarity of the Nectariniidæ and Dicæidæ of the two islands makes this supposition the more probable.

Yours &c.,

DEAN C. WORCESTER,

F. S. BOURNS.

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9 Elm Street, Ann Arbor, Mich., U.S.A.

May 7, 1895.

SIRS,—In his fourth paper on the ‘Birds of the Philippine Islands,’ we note that Mr. Ogilvie Grant remarks: “It is gratifying to observe that my papers in ‘The Ibis,’ based on the results of Mr. Whitehead’s former collections, have at last had the effect of inducing our American friends, Messrs. F. S. Bourns and D. C. Worcester, two of the naturalists who accompanied the second Steere expedition to the Philippines, to publish the long-expected paper descriptive of the results of their collecting trip.”

This highly remarkable statement would perhaps require no comment from us were it not that our final paper, which was turned over to the Minnesota Academy months ago for publication, seems in a fair way to be as long delayed as was its predecessor, and we are not disposed to bear the responsibility for the delay in either case.

We do not know what Mr. Grant means by “the second Steere expedition.” We had the pleasure of accompanying Dr. Steere on the first and *only* “Steere expedition” of which we have any knowledge, but that gentleman had not the remotest connection with our second visit to the Philippines.

The causes of the unseemly delay in the publication of our results were, briefly, the financial ruin of the gentleman who sent us to the Philippines, to whom the collections secured by us belonged, and the lack of means for prosecuting work upon them on the part of the Minnesota Academy, into whose hands they eventually came. We did not have access to our collections for a year after our return. Our preli-

inary paper was, however, completed before we had the pleasure of seeing the first of Mr. Grant's very interesting contributions to our knowledge of Philippine ornithology. Our final paper has been in the hands of the Minnesota Academy for some months, and we beg to assure Mr. Grant that he could not possibly feel half the disgust over the delay in the publication of our results that we have felt ourselves. Had the matter been under our own control we venture to say that *no one would have experienced any annoyance from our slowness.*

Yours &c.,

DEAN C. WORCESTER.

FRANK S. BOURNS.

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*Note on Xenicus insularis.*—The bird described and figured under this name in the last number of 'The Ibis' (above, p. 236, Pl. VII.) is identical with Mr. Rothschild's *Traversia tyalli*, Bull. B. O. C. no. xxii. p. x, and above, p. 269. There can be no question that the latter name has precedence in point of date of publication, but Sir W. Buller's description, together with a specimen of the bird for illustration, was received by the Editors in this country and was in their hands before Mr. Rothschild's communication was made to the B. O. C.

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*Recent Ornithological Expeditions.*—Mr. E. Lort Phillips, F.Z.S., accompanied by Mrs. Lort Phillips, returned to his old quarters in Somaliland in January last, and made a select but most interesting collection of birds, embracing amongst other rarities examples of a new Blackbird and a new Crow\*.

Col. Yerbury, F.Z.S., went to Aden in January last, and in the course of two months' collecting in the interior succeeded in settling several questions relative to its birds, which had been left unsolved in his paper on this subject (Ibis, 1886, p. 11), and in that of Lieut. Barnes (Ibis, 1893,

\* See Bull. B. O. C. above, p. 383.

p. 57). We hope to be able to give some account of both these expeditions in our next number.

Mr. Ogilvie Grant has been able to carry out successfully a long-planned expedition to the Salvage Islands, between Madeira and the Canaries, and seems to have brought away specimens of every natural object to be found in this remote spot, including specimens of a Petrel (*Oceanodroma cryptoleucura*) new to the European Avifauna.

Mr. Ogilvie Grant has received from Mr. Whitehead another set of birds from the mountains of Luzon, which contains many novelties, and amongst others specimens of a new Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula*). We hope that an account of this collection will also be ready for our next number.

Mr. R. C. L. Perkins, under the directions of the Sandwich Island Committee, left again for his former quarters in February last, and was to proceed first, we understand, to Kauai. The Committee have now resolved to distribute the specimens contained in Mr. Perkins's first collection (about 500 in number, from the islands of Maui, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Hawaii), assigning the first set to the British Museum and the second set to the Museum of the University of Cambridge.

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'*Aves Hawaienses*' and the '*Avifauna of Laysan*.'—Both Mr. Scott B. Wilson and Mr. W. Rothschild have issued notices to the subscribers to their respective works that they propose to defer the publication of their concluding parts until the return of Mr. Perkins from his second expedition to the Sandwich Islands. This delay, we venture to think, is much to be regretted in both cases, as the date of the close of Mr. Perkins's new expedition is quite indefinite, and it is on all accounts desirable to bring such works to a speedy conclusion, without waiting with the hopeless idea of rendering them "perfect."

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*Anniversary Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, 1895.*—The Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union was held at the rooms of the Zoological

Society of London, 3 Hanover Square, on Wednesday, the 8th of May, at 6 P.M. In the absence of the President, Mr. PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., was in the Chair. The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting having been read and confirmed, the Report of the Committee was read. It stated that three Ordinary Members (Major H. C. Harford, Mr. W. V. Wood, and Lieut.-Col. J. H. Yule) had withdrawn, and that three (E. Hargitt, F.Z.S., the Rev. H. S. Hawkins, M.A., and A. G. More, F.L.S.) had died since the last Anniversary.

The number of the Members of the Union at the close of 1894 was 281, consisting of 250 Ordinary, 1 Extraordinary, 10 Honorary, and 20 Foreign Members. There were 19 Candidates for the Ordinary Membership, to be balloted for at the present Meeting.

The accounts for the year 1894 were presented by the Secretary, and approved by the Meeting.

The following Ordinary Members were balloted for and declared to be duly elected:—

H.R.H. Ferdinand, Prince of Bulgaria, Sophia, Bulgaria.

Dr. J. Rose Bradford, F.R.S., 52 Upper Berkeley Street,  
Portman Square, W.

S. Gurney Buxton, Calton Hall, Norfolk.

Richard Edward Coles, Oakfield, Milton, Lymington.

Sir Savile B. Crossley, Bart., F.Z.S., Somerleyton,  
Lowestoft; and 12 Carlton House Terrace, S.W.

Surgeon-Capt. C. Donovan, 1st Burma Rifles, Maymyo,  
Burma.

Edmund A. S. Elliot, M.R.C.S., Albert Villa, Kings-  
bridge, South Devon.

Carl, Freiherr von Erlanger, Nieder Ingelheim, Rhein-  
Hessen, Germany.

John J. M. Falconer, Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Frederick William Frohawk, 39 Dornton Road, Balham,  
S.W.

Oxley Grabham, Grosvenor Road, Scarbro'.

Lionel W. Hinxman, B.A., Geological Survey of Scot-  
land, Edinburgh.

Henry Eliot Howard, Stone House, Kidderminster.

William Edward Kingsford, Ashdene, East Molesey, Surrey.

Robert Nesham, Utrecht House, Queen's Road, Clapham Park, S.W.

H. Noble, Temple Combe, Henley-on-Thames.

Charles Boughey Rickett, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Foochow.

Henry Marriage Wallis, 6 Southern Hill, Reading.

Lieut.-Col. John William Yerbury, R.A., F.Z.S., Army and Navy Club, S.W.

The outgoing President and Secretary were re-elected, and Mr. J. E. Harting was elected into the Committee in the place of Mr. Osbert Salvin, M.A., F.R.S., who retired by rotation.

The question of a General Index for the fourth, fifth, and sixth series of 'The Ibis' having been again discussed, and the Committee having pointed out their difficulties in the matter, it was agreed "That the Committee be authorized to proceed with the Index at once."

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting adjourned.

The Annual Dinner, subsequently held at Limmer's Hotel, was attended by 29 Members and guests.

*Obituary.*—MR. A. G. MORE and MR. G. N. LAWRENCE.

ALEXANDER GOODMAN MORE—whose lamented decease we recorded in our last issue—was born in London on September 5th, 1830, but by descent was an Aberdonian. In early life he resided at Renens, near Lausanne, and in other parts of the Canton Vaud. Five years were spent at Rugby; and from 1850 to 1853 he was at Trinity College, Cambridge, where, in addition to the usual course of studies, he continued the work already commenced in botany, entomology, conchology, in fact, in almost every branch of Natural History, for those were not the days of specialists. This catholicity of taste was More's distinguishing feature in after-life and



down to the day of his death. In 1867 he was appointed Assistant in the Dublin Natural History Museum, of which he became Curator in 1881 on the death of Dr. Carte, and there he continued until his retirement, in consequence of ill-health, in 1887. During those twenty years his rooms at Dublin were the rendezvous of all who were interested in Natural History. More's energy and genial manner stimulated the pursuit of every branch of science, and it would be difficult to over-rate the value of his services to zoology and botany in Ireland. He was, in fact, and *par excellence*, the naturalist for that island, though not for it alone; for when in the Isle of Wight, during his youth, he had already written some useful articles on Birds. In this Journal, for 1865, More published a valuable series of articles on "The Birds of Great Britain during the Nesting-Season"; and later, he prepared two excellent "Lists of Irish Birds," to say nothing of minor contributions. Even after his retirement, and when physically crippled, he retained his mental activity and cheerfulness to the last. It was not, however, so much what he wrote for himself as the assistance and stimulus which he gave to others, that constitute More's claim to grateful remembrance; and it is with a full heart that his former companion in Connemara, and the recipient of immeasurable assistance on ornithological subjects, writes this inadequate *In Memoriam* of one of his best friends.—H. S.

GEORGE NEWBOLD LAWRENCE, whose loss to the list of Foreign Members of the B. O. U. we have already recorded, died at his home at New York on the 17th January last, at the good old age of 89 years. Lawrence was born in the city of New York, where he always resided, on the 20th October, 1806, and passed his life in business as a member of a successful firm of wholesale druggists. In this business he continued for 36 years, devoting all his spare time to ornithology, to which, besides his natural liking, he was stimulated by close intimacy in early days with Spencer Baird and J. J. Audubon. Commencing early in life with native birds, Lawrence soon extended his collecting range into

Mexico and Central America, and eventually over the whole of the New World. Only a few years ago the collection thus amassed during fifty years' work, numbering about 8000 specimens, and containing about 300 types of new species, was deposited in the American Museum of Natural History at New York.

Lawrence published his first paper on birds in 1844, and continued a series of notes and memoirs in the 'Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York,' the 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia,' the 'Proceedings of the United States National Museum,' and other periodicals for nearly 50 years. His various writings, of which a complete account has been published in no. 40 of the 'Bulletin of the United States National Museum,' are 121 in number. In 1858 he was associated with Baird and Cassin in Baird's great work on 'The Birds of North America.' Another important piece of work performed by Lawrence was his Catalogue of the collection of birds made by McLeannan on the Panama Railway, of which the first portion was published in 1862. At that time Panama was almost a *terra incognita* for naturalists, and Lawrence's memoir excited great interest all over the ornithological world.

So long ago as December 1856 the writer of this notice had the pleasure of making Lawrence's acquaintance, having previously known him by correspondence. He well recollects several most interesting evenings passed in Lawrence's company in an underground apartment at the Naturalist's dwelling in New York city, where the collection of birds was at that time kept. After that date Lawrence and the writer maintained a constant correspondence upon bird-topics, and met again at New York in 1884. An excellent notice of Lawrence and his work will be found in 'Science' for March 8th of the present year, from the pen of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, and a biographical sketch of him by Mr. Foster forms a preface to the bibliography of which we have already spoken.—P. L. S.